The Shop Sun-blind Nuisance.—Sir,—I beg to call your attention to the fact, that the sun-blind nuisance is assailable irrespective of the Commissioners of Pavements, and of their surveyors, which latter may be truly said to *overlook* much of which they should take cognizance. Under the Metropolitan Police Act, 2 & 3 Vict. c. 47, s. 60, those "who set up or continue any pole, blind, awning, line, or any other projection from any window, parapet, or other part of any house, shop, or other building, *so as to cause annoyance or obstruction* in any thoroughfare," are liable to a penalty of 40s. for each offence; and further, by sec. 62 of the same Act, if any such offence "shall have caused any hurt or damage to any person or property, the offender may be apprehended by any constable; and if he shall not, upon demand, make amends for such hurt or damage to the satisfaction of the person aggrieved, he shall be detained by the constable in order to be taken before a magistrate, and, upon conviction, shall pay such a sum, not more than 10*l.*, as shall appear to the magistrate before whom he shall be convicted to be reasonable amends to the person aggrieved, *besides* any penalty to which he may be liable for the offence." If you can manage to jog the memories of th Whitehall authorities, and get them to shake off any awe they may feel of the metropolitan vestrymen in this matter, you will render a great service to your fellow-citizens, and receive the thanks of,—A. Long fellow.

*** The police, then, have no excuse, any more than the Commissioners of Pavements, for allowing such a nuisance as this to exist. We hope, ere long, to see a general onslaught, as before said, of 40s. penalties against it; but we suspect that public spirit, on the part of those annoyed or injured, must lead the van.

Reproductive Employment of Paupers.—A very numerously attended meeting has been held in the town hall, Manchester, "for the purpose of taking into consideration, the propriety of presenting a petition to Parliament in favour of such an alteration in the laws for the relief of the poor as will enforce the general adoption, as far as practicable, of reproductive employment of the destitute, in lieu of total idleness, or useless taskwork, with the view of reducing the heavy burden of poor rates, and abating the demoralising consequences resulting from the present system." The mayor presided, and the principal speakers were clergymen, who met the arguments usually urged in favour of idleness in workhouses, and carried the sense of the meeting, in various appropriate resolutions, entirely along with them, notwithstanding the endeavours of a few speakers to uphold the present state of things.

The Iron Trade.—The general aspect of this trade remains unchanged. A slight improvement in the price of rails has been obtained; but sheets, nail-rods, rounds, and use iron meet with a rather more limited sale at home, and without a shade of tendency to better figures. In the pig trade very little is doing, and that without alteration. Both manufactured and pig iron still exhibit the same extreme latitude of variation prices, and consequently, it may reasonably be supposed, in quality also; the former extending from 4*l.* 15s. net, to 6*l.* for bars, and other descriptions after the same proportion; and the latter from 42s. 6d. to 70s. per ton. Notwithstanding the grievous complaints of want of remuneration in that branch of the trade, we hear that instead of a reduction of the number of furnaces already in blast, more are about to be set to work.—*Aris's Birmingham Gazette.*

Improved Vertical Boring Lathe.—Messrs. Gale and Fensom, of Upper Thames-street, have patented a new description of hand boring and drilling lathe. The drill crank works in a sliding frame, moving up or down, in a guide rod, at the top of which is a screw to regulate the distance according to thickness of material operated on. The pressure screw acts above the crank in the usual manner, and below the upper arm of the bracket is a small fly-wheel, which regulates and facilitates the motion.

Sales of Property.—On the 11th inst. at the Mart, by Messrs. Chinnock and Galsworthy,—One 21 share in freehold houses, ground-rents, and building land, at Stockwell and Bermondsey, including the Swan Tavern, producing a rental of 32*l.* per annum, progressively increasing till 1889, when it will amount to 120*l.* per annum: 850*l.*—Leasehold investment of 194*l.* per annum, for seventeen years, well secured on property situate in Sloane-street, being a residence with two wings, forming shops: 940*l.*—Leasehold residence, with stabling, 41, Upper Bedford-place; annual value, 130*l.*; term, 75 years: 1,100*l.*—Freehold house and shop, 13, Portugal-street; annual value, 70*l.*: 860*l.*—Leasehold stabling, in Little Grosvenor-mews, let at 100*l.* per annum; ground-rent, 45*l.*: 550*l.*—Freebold ground-rents, amounting to 304*l.* per annum, secured on a square at Notting-hill, with a piece of building land for eleven houses (by private contract): 8,500*l.*—Improved ground-rents, amounting to 424*l.* per annum, secured upon leasehold houses, forming the whole of Sydney-street, King's-cross, River-terrace, &c. including several shops in the main road, of the rack annual value of 2,120*l.* per annum (privately), in one lot: 7,700*l.*

New Electric Phenomenon.—I very recently witnessed at Mr. E. Dorguin's, manufacturer of chocolate and *cho'ca* (a new aliment, composed of coffee and chocolate), a most curious fact. In taking out the cho'ca paste from the tin moulds, cold and hard, it manifested an electric appearance, from which *sparks* were visible. Until now I could not account for this phenomenon, unless it is admitted that the cho'ca contains idio-electric properties, the same as in resinous or vitreous substances; but in this case there had been no friction to develope the electricity, and the moulds in which the paste had been standing for 24 hours, communicated with the earth, which might facilitate the immediate reconstitution. The cho'ca tablet has such a powerful attraction, that it holds the tin-foil, which serves to envelope it, suspended for more than ten minutes,—the tin-foil is 90 square inches in surface. I have just constructed a cho'ca electrophore, and after a friction I obtain about twenty electric sparks successively.—Chevr. Le Mott.

Our Public Buildings.—It is provoking to observe the alterations that are constantly being made in our public buildings within a few years after their erection. This remark is drawn forth by the recent works on the south side of the Royal Exchange. The London Assurance Company, finding their office confined for space, have made a very awkward and ugly projection, *in woodwork grooved to imitate masonry!*—the granite string course has been chopped away with ruthless hand. In another compartment on the south side, No. 1, a *new shop-front* is being put in! It is to be hoped this spirit of alteration will not be catching, or a few months hence we may find a beautiful variety in the thirty compartments surrounding our Royal Exchange. Who permits the liberties in this instance? We ought to be able to fix the *laches* on some one; poor *Mr. Nobody* is often the wrong-doer.—X.

The Profession.—A correspondent directs our attention to the fact that, in the *Chester Chronicle* of May 15th, in an account of insolvency, &c. Richard Cross is represented as being opposed by Walter Instrip, sawyer and *architect*. What next?

Enlargement of the Corn Exchange, Mark-lane.—Workmen have been laying the foundation for the enlargement of the old Corn Exchange, Mark-lane, on the site of the late fire in Seething-lane, Tower-street. The cost will be about 5,000*l.*

General Insurance.—It appears strange to me, amongst all the attempts made to improve the metropolis, in which so many societies exist to instruct and elevate the condition of the great human family, no one has suggested the idea of uniting the metropolitan parishes into a general compulsory fire insurance office, from which source funds sufficient to carry out great and important improvements might arise without increasing our rates.—A Friend to Improvement.

Opening of the Nottingham Arboretum.—On Tuesday in last week the walks of this Arboretum were formally perambulated by the authorities, in presence of many thousands of spectators, whom the mayor addressed on opening the grounds to the public.

The Westminster Training Institution.—On Tuesday, in last week, the chief stone of a new building in Victoria-street, Westminster, to be called the Westminster Training Institution, was laid by his Royal Highness the Prince Consort, who was enthusiastically received by a numerous company.

Cambridge Architectural Society.—The second meeting for the Easter Term, was held at the Society's Rooms, on Thursday, in last week, the Rev. Dr. Mill, president, in the chair. Mr. R. R. Rowe, Architect, and Mr. J. B. Kelly, of Clare hall, were proposed as ordinary members. Mr. Norris Deck read a paper, accompanied by coloured examples, on the connexion between Ecclesiology and Heraldry.

The Serpentine.—A deputation of physicians and others, on the 14th instant, went to the office of Works, on the subject of the stagnant and dangerous condition of the Serpentine. Mr. Lilwal introduced the subject to Lord J. Manners; and Dr. Woolley, Dr. Tilt, Dr. Wilson, and Dr. Pettigrew addressed his lordship, who several times acknowledged the necessity of early and careful attention, and promised that an additional supply of water should be immediately seen to.

TENDERS

For finishing four houses, situated in Queen's-terrace, Queen's-road, Primrose-hill, for Miss Leech. Mr. R. H. Moore, architect.

Fullagar	£1,686	0	0
Gerry	1,633	10	0
Rudkin	1,548	0	0
Luxford (Hackney)	940	0	0

For finishing four first-rate houses at Sydenham, for Mr. Peter Bolt. Mr. May, architect.

Greenwood	£1,280	0	0
Barrett	1,147	0	0
Cooper	1,090	0	0
Francis and Co.	968	0	0
Rudkin	935	0	0
Marsden (accepted)	910	0	0
Robinson	890	0	0

For first design for the Richmond Railway Station. Mr. W. Tite, architect.

Lovell	£5,248	0	0
Piper	5,242	0	0
Carless	5,225	0	0
Brass and Son	5,193	0	0
Smith	5,054	0	0
Long	4,980	0	0
Nicholson and Son	4,950	0	0
Mills and Joy	4,850	0	0
Little and Son	4,740	0	0
Grimsdell	4,695	0	0
Pollock and M'Lennan	4,584	0	0
Jay	4,458	0	0

For a warehouse at the Poplar goods station, for the East and West-India Docks and Birmingham Junction Railway, delivered at Euston-square, on the 14th inst.

W. Cubitt and Co.	£17,2[illegible]	0	0
J. and G. Munday	17,215	0	0
T. and W. Piper	16,70[illegible]	0	0
G. Watts	16,4[illegible]	0	0
J. Jay	16,275	0	0
J. Jeffrey	15,7[illegible]	0	0
Hack and Son	14,797	0	0
G. Myers	14,150	0	0

For coal stores for Imperial Gas Company, at Pulham.

Kelk	£3,700	0	0
Jay	3,347	0	0
Cubitt	3,137	0	0
Myers	2,673	0	0

For the erection of a villa and offices at Abbeyfeale county Limerick. Mr. John J. Lyons, architect.

Dobbin	£1,700	0	0
Meade	1,550	0	0
Burgess and Son	1,400	0	0
Patterson	1,450	0	0
Meagher and Son	1,100	0	0

For schools, Packard-street, City-road. Mr. Emmett architect.

	Schools.	Furniture.	Total.
Haynes and Eyre	£1,942	£125	£2,067
Jay	1,843	136	1,979

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"*Skew Bridges.*"—Will one of your correspondents tell me whether a bridge, built of stone or brick, over which heavy weights must pass, would be secure, supposing it to be built at an angle of 40 degrees, and to have a *pointed Tudor arch* springing from the abutments; the voussoirs and abutments to be strong in proportion to the span. This being what is commonly called a skew bridge, is there no error in *principle?* Would it not have to be *groined?*

"H. P." (thanks), "G. W.," "C. C.," "T. L.," "C. J. B.," "B. B.," "Subscriber from No. 1," "Malachite" (we cannot furnish prices), "A Competitor," "F. R.," "R. M.," "S. H.," "R. D.," "A. B.," "J. J.," "G. W. R.," "X. + Y.," "J. E. N.," "R. W. L.," "A. H. P.," "W. J. H." (we have not time to refer).

"*Books and Addresses.*"—We have not time to point out books or find addresses.

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